



Town of Wyoming
Joint Workshop with Camden
Camden Municipal Complex
April 20, 2012
7:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Edmundson called the Camden Work Session to order at 7:30 p.m. followed by Mayor Rife who called the Wyoming Workshop to order at 7:31 p.m.

PLEDGE: Mayor Rife led the Pledge of Allegiance

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR OUR TROOPS: Mayor Rife asked for a moment of silence for our troops.

CAMDEN COUNCIL ATTENDING: Mayor W.G. Edmundson, Justin King, Larry Dougherty, Kevin Casquarelli and John Green

WYOMING COUNCIL ATTENDING: Mayor Dale Rife, Terry Witt, Jacqueline Stokes, Georgette Williams - Wyoming Council Absent: Tracy Greenwood

CWSWA MEMBERS ATTENDING: Mike Quinn - Wyoming, Tracy Torres - Camden, Jim Winchell - Wyoming

STAFF ATTENDING: Pamela Haddick, Wyoming Town Clerk

GUEST ATTENDING: Senator Brian Bushweller

AUDIENCE ATTENDING: Sign-in sheet taken by Town of Camden

ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Ms. Georgette Williams motioned to adopt the Wyoming agenda as published. Mr. Terry Witt seconded the motion. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passed.

DISCUSSION: The following are brief notes of the discussion. The Town of Camden recorded the entire discussion.

- Mayor Rife stated that she hopes this meeting will help the committee members know more of what is expected of them.
- Mayor Edmundson stated that he wants to see better communication and open dialog between CWSWA board members and the Town Councils. He then introduced Senator Brian Bushweller.
- Senator Bushweller explained what he feels the purpose of this joint workshop is. He would like to see the councils of each town discuss with the Authority Board Members

present their rolls as Board Members and their responsibilities to the town that appointed them as well as the residents of those towns.

- Mayor Edmundson stated that he would like to see more one on one with the Board Members.
- Terry Witt stated that he feels that in the future more should be done with checking a person's background and try harder to get members that are truly qualified to be involved with the Sewer & Water before appointing new members.
- Jaci Stokes asked Tracy Torres how she feels about her experience on the Board. Tracy stated that she has been pro-active – she knew very little about the running of the CWSWA so she has made a point to spend a lot of her personal time at their offices asking questions and learning.
- Jim Winchell stated that he does have some knowledge of how the sewer system works as he has worked in that field for many years.
- Tracy Torres stated that she appreciates the fact that Gene & Carol McFann always attend the meetings and she thinks more of the residents, especially the councils should attend.
- Jim Winchell has been a member for almost a year and in that time has not missed a meeting. He feels the CWSWA is doing an excellent job and is saving money wherever they can. They should be charging higher rates.
- Mayor Edmundson suggested going around the table and having everyone introduce themselves. This was done.
- Jim Winchell feels that the Board Members should not have been brought in to be confronted by the two councils.
- John Green asked for a time out to let Senator Bushweller talk.
- Senator Bushweller stated that he has prepared an outline of some of the complaints he has heard, the major one being that people are questioning who is in charge, the board members or the staff.
- Tracy Torres says that the CWSWA has a salary range for each position and that this is posted. She also feels councils should be more open with their board members to let them know what they want from them.
- Mike Quinn stated that he feels the Board is in charge of the Sewer & Water, not the staff. They are running a tight ship. The audit is available to anyone interested in seeing it.
- Jim Winchell says the Board approves projects a couple of years before they actually happen.
- Mayor Rife asked if Soheil Gharebaghi is an employee of the Authority or a subcontractor. The Board members were not sure but think he is an employee.
- Justin King asked why the other two Board Members were not in attendance. They apparently had other commitments. He stated that he would like to talk to them also.
- John Green stated that the CWSWA rates are the 4th highest in the state – how can Mr. Winchell say that they are not high enough? CWSWA has \$700,000 in the bank. Is this a for-profit, not for-profit, private or public – does the board need help? He feels the councils aren't heard enough. Who's managing the money? Who's managing the staff? He believes Soheil was full time 8 years ago when the building boom was reaching its peak. Why should he still be full time with the building slump we are in? Are outstanding loans paid off? Mr. Quinn says "no" due to pre-payment penalties. Would Mr. Winchell consider that they need a manager?
- Terry Witt asked Jim Winchell if he was the president of the Board, would he make changes. He said "no."
- Justin King feels the Board should be representing the Towns. Once the judge makes a decision on the FOIA issue, will the Board vote to follow it? Board members present feel "yes."

- Mayor Rife would like to keep the lines of communication open – get an attendance sheet each month from Mike or Jimmy.
- Georgette Williams stated that there is nothing personal in these issues. The Council and Board just need to meet in the middle.
- Senator Bushweller asked a question. Have the recent issues caused serious emotional issues and why?
 - Jim Winchell thinks that the Councils think the Board doesn't care.
 - Tracy Torres thinks some of the employees feel the public blames them for the unhappiness.
 - Georgette Williams stated that this did not start out personal but at the first meeting that was held with the two councils and the CWSWA many questions were asked and many of the answers were "I can't answer that,"
 - Larry Dougherty feels it's a lot about how things are "*perceived*."
 - Kevin Casquarelli stated that he feels some of the frustration of retired people on fixed incomes is due to having to pay impact fees to Kent County and CWSWA.
- Georgette Williams recommended that each council compile a list of questions to send to the Board.
- Senator Bushweller said he felt this has been a good discussion tonight – it has opened some avenues of communication. There are still issues left and he's sure the court decision will cause more issues.
- Mayor Rife stated that the Town of Wyoming Council will get a list of questions to our board members.

Terry Witt made a motion seconded by Georgette Williams to adjourn the Wyoming workshop. All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Haddick, Town Clerk, Wyoming